

MINUTES  
OPC MEETING  
NOVEMBER 19, 2015

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order in Room 206 of Town Hall at 8:34 a.m.

Present were First Selectman Jayme Stevenson; Board of Education Chairman Michael Harman; Board of Finance Chairman Jon Zagrodzky, Planning & Zoning Chairman Susan Cameron and RTM Moderator Sarah Seelye. Town Administrator Kate Buch, Chairman of the RTM Rules Committee Lois Schneider and Selectman Susan Marks were also in attendance. Terrie Wood was absent.

Mrs. Stevenson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the OPC meeting on October 22, 2015. Susan Cameron so moved, seconded by Michael Harman. The minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0. Jon Zagrodzky abstained.

**Planning & Zoning**

Ms. Cameron announced that the first draft of the Town Plan of Conservation and Development will be available next week. Opportunities for public comment and presentations to the BOS, RTM and LWV are planned.

The Kensett application has been approved. The approval grants the town three additional affordable housing units which will allow the town to reapply for the second moratorium on 830g. The development on Knobel Hill is progressing.

The commission has received a plan for a self-storage development on the Duhaime property. Mrs. Stevenson noted the Planning & Zoning Commission had previously specifically zoned this property for affordable housing. Mrs. Cameron explained it has since been determined that connecting to the sewer system would require going under the railroad tracks or I-95. The self-storage development also proposes two units of affordable housing for the property managers. This generated a discussion on deed restrictions and income verifications.

**RTM Moderator**

The RTM met on November 16, 2015 to assign committees. Lois Schneider is the new Chair of the RTM Rules Committee. The annual State of the Town meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2015.

**Board of Finance**

Jon Zagrodzky began his remarks by thanking his predecessor Liz Mao for her hard work and commitment to fiscal responsibility to the town. He looks forward to building on the collaboration with the BOE and BOS to create efficiencies, especially with regards to budget meetings. He was pleased that Frank Huck will be Vice-Chairman and Diana Maguire Secretary of the Board of Finance.

**Board of Education**

Mr. Harman expressed appreciation for the work done by his predecessor Betsy Hagerty-Ross, who is now offering her support as Vice-Chairman of the BOE. Sarah Zuro remains Secretary. The Annual Special Education Review and feedback on the facilities long range planning study are on the agenda for the Board's December 8, 2015 meeting. The Unified Sports Program begins with winter basketball, followed by spring track and hopefully, fall soccer.

Mr. Harman mentioned that the BOE will continue to look at ways for shared services with the town. Paving was considered but scheduling did not work out this year.

Finally, it was noted that Dr. Brenner continues to be very visible at school events. Both Dr. Brenner and Mr. Harman attended Veterans' programs held in the schools. Mrs. Marks noted that Mr. Harman was honored as a veteran of the Marine Corp at the Hindley ceremony.

**First Selectman**

Mrs. Stevenson was pleased to announce that her Board unanimously approved the hiring of a new Finance Director, Jennifer Charneski. Ms. Charneski begins her work with the Town on December 7, 2015.

Marc Thorne, Kip Koons and Rob Richards have been elected to the Board of Selectmen. Mrs. Stevenson looks forward to working with them and continuing to work with Susan Marks. She thanked Mrs. Marks for acting as First Selectman in her recent absence.

Darien has committed to becoming a Clean Energy Community. As part of its commitment to reduce energy consumption, Eversource will conduct a comprehensive energy audit of Darien which will include auditing school facilities.

The private/public partnership for the property at 41 Hecker Ave. will move forward with grant money covering half the cost.

Finally, the town along with WestCOG staff will select a consultant to undertake the access study for the Noroton Heights train station and commercial district.

Mrs. Stevenson called for a motion to adjourn. Sarah Seelye moved to adjourn, seconded by Susan Cameron and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary  
Recording Secretary